

Serial No. 10/718,024

PD-990099A

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-6 and add new claims 8-11 as follows:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (ORIGINAL) A system for providing broadband access to a communication service to user terminals, comprising:

a network of satellites, each satellite having:

at least one communication antenna for generating at least one beam cluster including a plurality of proximally disposed steerable communication beams;

a flexible channelizer for dynamically directing the steerable communication beams according to user terminal communication service demands; and

a plurality of gateway nodes, each gateway node associated with the user terminals serviced by the beam cluster, each gateway node for forwarding messages received from at least one of the user terminals serviced by the beam cluster via the network of satellites to the communication service, and for forwarding messages received from the communication service to at least one of the user terminals serviced by the beam cluster via the network of satellites.

8. (NEW) The system of claim 7, wherein the network of satellites are in non-geostationary orbits.

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9. (NEW) The system of claim 8, wherein the network of satellites includes a low earth orbit (LEO) system of satellites and a mid earth orbit (MEO) system of satellites.

10. (NEW) The system of claim 7, wherein the beam cluster includes multiple overlapping beams to provide service at flexible data rates.

11. (NEW) The system of claim 10, wherein the steerable communications beams further use frequency division multiple access (FDMA) and time division multiple access (TDMA) to provide service at flexible data rates.